

To develop leadership within the Latino population to improve Latino health, the Task Force recommended that:

10. El Pueblo, in conjunction with AHEC and other organizations, create a Latino Health Institute dedicated to improving the health of North Carolina Latinos.

To address the problems of health literacy, including the lack of understanding of the US health system among many Latinos, the Task Force recommended that:

11. The NC Department of Health and Human Services take the lead in convening a group of organizations who have developed and implemented lay health advisor programs. This group will help coordinate and strengthen lay health advisor programs, develop training for lay health advisors and provide technical assistance to other organizations seeking to implement similar programs. The group should help identify possible funding sources from North Carolina and national philanthropies, with a priority given to communities and counties with a large concentration of Latino residents.
12. The NC Community College system (Adult Literacy) take positive steps to address the problems of low literacy, including health literacy, among its Latino population. There is a need for a statewide initiative to address this problem across all population groups (not limited to Latinos).

To ensure that the state has adequate data to monitor health disparities and health access of the Latinos living and working in the state, the Task Force recommended that:

13. The NC Department of Health and Human Services and other health, behavioral health, dental and human services providers should collect health, behavioral health, dental and social services-related data (including but not limited to utilization and health outcomes) by race and ethnicity, to determine if Latinos are able to access needed health, behavioral health, dental, and social services, and whether there are specific health disparities facing the North Carolina Latino community.